

Remarks

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed on April 19, 2005. Entry of this Amendment and reconsideration of the instant application in view of the above amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10 are pending. Claims 1-10 are rejected.

Claims 1-5 and 6 have been amended to more distinctly claim the invention. Support for these amendments is found in original claim 6 and on page 3, second full paragraph. No new matter has been added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for his courtesy in an interview conducted on June 8, 2005, the contents of which are summarized in the Interview Summary.

Rejections

Claims 1-3 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,710,161 to Bardman et al. Applicants submit that Bardman et al. neither teach nor disclose the claimed invention because Bardman et al. do not teach encapsulation of the primary composite particle by the polymer layer in an aqueous dispersion.

Bardman et al. disclose composite particles that absorb onto pigment particles. See, col. 14, lines 48-50. A second polymer may be used as a film-forming binder. See, col. 15, lines 1-15. At most, the second polymer encapsulates the particles in a film. In the present invention, the polymer layer provides partial or complete coverage of the primary composite particles in an aqueous dispersion. See, Application, p. 5, second full paragraph. Although Bardman et al. teach a film formed from a second polymer that encapsulates particles, the second polymer does not polymerize to form a polymer layer that encapsulates the composite and pigment particles in an aqueous dispersion, as required in the claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 4-5 and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bardman et al. For the same reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge any additional claim fees deemed required for entry of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 18-1850.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim R. Jessum
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 43,694
Telephone No. 215-592-3689

July 19, 2005

Date

Rohm and Haas Company
100 Independence Mall West
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2399